

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COM-02 /079 W

-----020159Z 021867 /13

R 011200Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2533

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/Z

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF (TRANSKEI)

SUBJ: MATANZIMA RENEWS THREAT OVER LAND ISSUE

REF: DURBAN 114, 121

1. TRANSKEI PRIME MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA HAS MADE RENEWED AND AMPLIFIED THREATS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA OVER ISSUE OF TRANSFER OF TERRITORY TO TRANSKEI (REFTELREFTELS). PROXIMATE CAUSE OF HIS LATEST THREAT WAS ANNOUNCEMENT BY SAG OF FINALIZATION OF PLANS TO TRANSFER EAST GRIQUALAND (THAT PORTION OF CAPE PROVINCE LYING NORTH-EAST OF TRANSKEI AND NO LONGER CONTIGUOUS WITH CAPE) FROM THE CONTROL OF CAPE PROVINCE TO NATAL. DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH A TRANSFER HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THERE HAS BEEN GENERAL AGREEMENT IN WHITE SOUTH AFRICA THAT THE ONLY LOGICAL DECISION WOULD BE TRANSFER OF EAST GRIQUALAND CONTROL FROM THE CAPE TO ,NATAL.

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2. MATANZIMA CHOSE OCCASION OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAG'S TRANSFER PLANS TO REITERATE HIS THREAT TO RESORT TO "USE F ARMED FORCE" TO BRING ABOUT THE CESSION OF THE LAND TO TRANSKEI. AMPLIFYING HIS POINT, MATANZIMA ALSO THREATENED TO WITHDRAW HIS AMBASSADOR, BREAK RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, SEVER ALL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES, AND EXPEL ALL SOUTH AFRICAN ADVISERS ON LOAN TO TRANSKEI. TO REPLACE THESE LINKS, HE SAID, TRANSKEI WOULD

SEEK DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH "ANY OTHER STRONG COUNTRY". HIS ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTEDLY WAS GREETED BY CHEERS FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. "OPPOSITION" LEADER, MR. DIKO, ROSE TO SECOND PRIME MINISTER'S STAND AND ADDED THAT TRANSKEI WOULD TURN TO RUSSIA FOR HELP BECAUSE "FORTUNATELY, A BIG MAN FROM RUSSIA IS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT WILL NOT TAKE LONG TO CONTACT HIM AND TELL HIM TO COME AND SAVE US." THIS WAS REPORTEDLY GREETED BY CHEERS OF "PODGORNY, PODGORNY" FROM ASSEMBLY.

3. WHITE REACTION IN NATAL WAS MEASURED. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR HAVEMANN SAID MATANZIMA'S "ASSEGAI RATTLING" WAS DESIGNED FOR OVERSEAS CONSUMPTION. LEADER OF NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, FRANK MARTIN, SAID HE COULD NOT CHANGE MATANZIMA'S MIND BUT THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD DO WHAT THEY FELT THEY MUST AND HE WAS NOT OVERAWED BY THREAT.

4. COMMENT(BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE).MATANZIMA'S THREAT TO USE ARMED FORCE"
AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IS PATENTLY ABSURD ASIDE FROM FACT IT VIOLATES NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HIS THREAT TO CUT OFF BASIC RELATIONS, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING ALL SAG-TRANSKEI SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS, COULD APPEAR TO BE SUICIDAL IF CARRIED OUT. TRANSKEI BUDGET IS HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY GRANTS OR TRANSFERS OF ONE FORM OR ANOTHER FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND SAG-SECONDED PERSONNEL ARE STILL VITAL TO RUNNING OF TRANSKEI BUREAUCRACY .. ALL IMPORTS ENTER TRANSKEI VIA SOUTH AFRICA AND MOST TRADE AS WELL. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTS MATANZIMA'S LATEST TIRADE, LIKE THE EARLIER ONES, APPEARS MAINLY AS A BLUSTER DESIGNED TO MOBILIZE POPULAR SUPPORT WITHIN TRANSKEI
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AND DEMONSTRATE TO A SKEPTICAL WORLD THAT HE IS NOT AN SAG PUPPET. THE REACTION OF THE TRANSKEI ASSEMBLY TO CALL FOR SOVIET "SAVIORS" IS INTERESTING BUT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE UNSOPHISTICATED AND EASILY-LED CHARACTER OF THAT BODY.

FARBER

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